

REMARKS

Amendments to the Specification:

The specification has been amended herein to correct typographical errors in the as-filed description. For example, the originally filed description of the “r/mGmH” transcription conditions inadvertently stated that up to 10% of the guanosine residues (“G residues”) are “deoxy” G residues, rather than 2-OH G residues (*see e.g.*, paragraph [00116] bridging pages 23-24, and paragraph [00133] bridging pages 30-31. As described throughout the originally filed description, *e.g.*, in paragraph [00116] on page 23, ribonucleotides are “2’-OH” and are abbreviated as “rN” (where N is any nucleotide). Thus the abbreviation “r/mGmH” represents aptamers in which the G residues are either “rG” (*i.e.*, 2’-OH G residues) or “mG” residues (*i.e.*, 2’-O-methylated G residues), and the H residues (*i.e.*, any residue other than G residues, *see e.g.*, WIPO Standard ST.25, Appendix 2, Table 1) are “mH” residues (*i.e.*, 2’-O-methylated residues). Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the indicator “r” is used frequently in the art to refer to ribonucleotides, rather than deoxynucleotides. Moreover, the original description of the transcription conditions for producing r/mGmH aptamers at paragraph [00122] bridging pages 25-26, do not include deoxy G residues. Rather, this description calls for the inclusion of 2’-OMe G residues and 2’-OH G residues. Thus, the amendments in paragraph [00116] bridging pages 23-24, and paragraph [00133] bridging pages 30-31 are fully supported by the as-filed specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. We respectfully request that these corrections be accepted.

Amendments to the Claims:

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 5-21, and 77-100 are pending. Claims 2-4 and 22-76 have been canceled, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute that subject matter, as well as the originally presented claims, in continuing applications. Claims 1 and 14-21, have been amended. Claims 77-100 have been added. Support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification as originally filed. For example, support for claim 1 is found at least in paragraphs [0048] and [0049] at pages 6-7 and in paragraph [00121] at page 25. Support for claims 14 to 16 is found at least in paragraph [00120] at page 25. Support for claim 17 and 18 is found at least in paragraph [0035] at page 5, paragraph [0056] at page 8, and paragraph [00121]

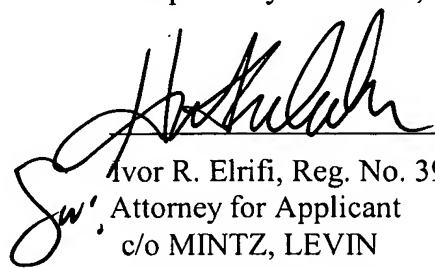
at page 25. Support for claim 19 and 20 is found at least in paragraph [0036] at page 5 and paragraph [0055] at page 8. Support for claim 21 is found at least in Figure 1, in paragraph [0095] at page 17, paragraph [00172] at page 38, paragraph [00231] at page 65, and paragraph [00238] at page 70. Support for claim 77 is found at least in paragraph [00133] at page 30 as corrected upon entry of this amendment. Support for claim 78 is found in paragraph [00128] at page 27, paragraph [00184] at page 40, paragraph [00185] at page 41, paragraphs [00211]-[00212] at page 54, and paragraph [00213] at page 55. Support for claims 79 and 88 is found at least in paragraph [00120] at page 25. Support for claims 80 and 89 is found at least in paragraph [00121] at page 25. Support for claims 81 and 90, is found at least in paragraph [00118] at page 24. Support for claims 82 and 91 is found at least in paragraphs [0040]-[0044] at page 6, and paragraph [0051] at page 7. Support for claims 83 and 92 is found at least in paragraph [00133] at page 30 as corrected upon entry of this amendment. Support for claims 84 and 93 is found at least in paragraph paragraphs [00137] and [00140] at page 32. Support for claims 85 and 94 is found at least in [00137] and [00141] at page 32. Support for claims 86 and 95 is found at least in paragraph [00128] at page 27, paragraph [00184] at page 40, paragraph [00185] at page 41, paragraphs [00211]-[00212] at page 54, and paragraph [00213] at page 55. Support for claims 87 and 96 is found at least at least in Figure 1, in paragraph [0095] at page 17, paragraph [00172] at page 38, paragraph [00231] at page 65, and paragraph [00238] at page 70. Support for claims 97-100 is found at least in paragraph [00133] on page 30 as corrected upon entry of this amendment.

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CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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